

## AMPHIBIA: CAUDATA: PLETHODONTIDAE

*PSEUDOEURYCEA NIGROMACULATA*

## Catalogue of American Amphibian and Reptiles.

Parra-Olea, G. 1998. *Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata*.

*Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* Taylor

*Bolitoglossa nigromaculata* Taylor 1941:141. Type locality, "Cuaulapan, Veracruz [18°52'N, 97°01'W; México]."  
Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 110635, adult female, collected January–February 1940 by H.M. Smith (not examined by author).

*Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* Taylor 1944:209.

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.

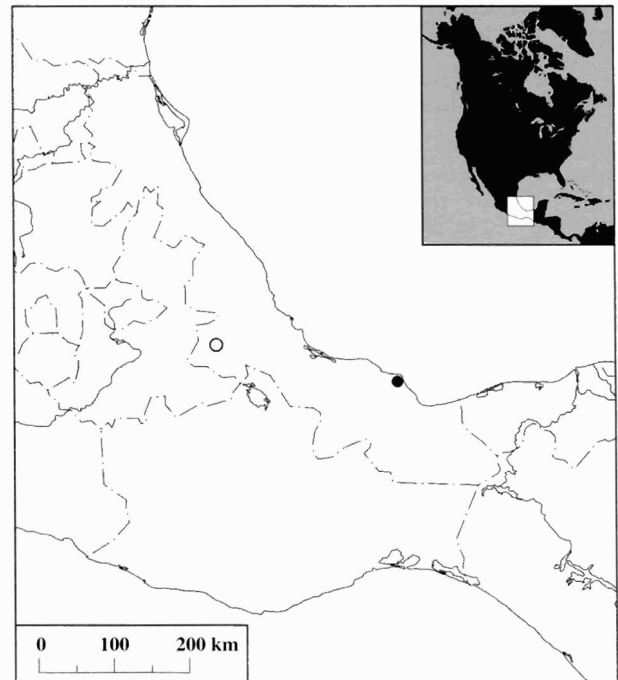
• **DEFINITION.** Adult *Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* are robust and of moderate size, with mean SVL = 49.2mm (44.9–55.8). Females tend to be larger than males, but no significant difference in total body length occurs. Tail length is longer than SVL (2–12 mm longer). Costal grooves number 13. The limbs are long and, when adpressed, are separated by a space of 1–2.5 costal grooves. The digits are long and webbed at their bases. Toes are broadly flattened and tips are truncate. Vomerine teeth number 35 (mean) and about 60 maxillary teeth are present.

In alcohol a pattern of different intensities of brown is present along the body. The neck is dark brown, the head and dorsum are lighter, and the tail is light brown or beige. Distinct scattered black spots are present all along the dorsum, on the flanks, and all around the tail. The density of spots is higher on the head. The underside of the head and the venter are uniformly medium brown and without spots. Color in life was described by D.B. Wake (1970, field notes): "*Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* has a gray pigment on the head and neck with marked black spots along the body. Posteriorly on the dorsum the light color becomes rose or yellowish and often very bright. The tail is considerably lighter than the dorsum, being whitish or brownish. The venter is jet black, but with spots and flecks of dorsal color which are silver or goldish. The ventral side of the tail is always sharply set off from belly."

*Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* is one of the few *Pseudoeurycea* whose microhabitat is restricted to bromeliads in the cloud forest (Wake and Lynch 1976, Wake 1987), despite the claim of Taylor (1941) who suggested terrestrial habitats for the species.

• **DIAGNOSIS.** *Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* differs from *P. leprosa* by its more robust body, presence of black spots, and longer limbs and toes. Shannon and Werler (1955a) pointed out that *P. firscheini* resembles *P. nigromaculata* in general form and dental formulae, but the former possesses a uniform ground color with few if any of the dark spots typical of the latter.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Adults were described by Taylor (1941). McDiarmid and Worthington (1970) described the eggs, and Lombard (1977) the inner ear.



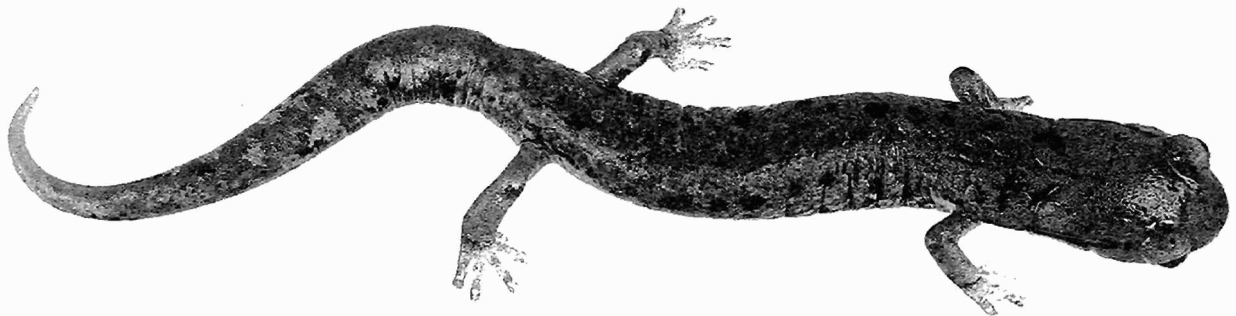
**MAP.** Distribution of *Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata*. The circle marks the type locality and the dot indicates the only other known locality.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Taylor (1941) presented a photograph of the type and paratype of this species. Lombard (1977) presented a drawing of the inner ear and the periotic canal.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** This species occurs only in the state of Veracruz, México, near the type locality at Cerro Chicahuaxtla, Cuaulapan at medium elevations (1240–1670 m). It also has been collected on Volcán San Martín, in the Los Tuxtlas region (Shannon and Werler 1955b). The report of the species from Las Vigas (Smith et al. 1952) pertains to an undescribed species (Wake et al. 1992).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Information on habitat use was given by Wake and Lynch (1976) and Wake (1987). Field body temperature was studied by Feder et al. (1982). The inner ear was studied by Lombard (1977). Immunological comparisons were made by Maxson and Wake (1981), and chromosomes were studied by León and Kezer (1978).



**FIGURE.** Adult *Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* from Cerro Chicahuaxtla, Veracruz, México. Photograph courtesy of D.B. Wake.

• **REMARKS.** This species was assigned to the genus *Bolitoglossa* by Taylor (1941), but was subsequently transferred to the genus *Pseudoeurycea* when *Bolitoglossa* was subdivided by Taylor (1944). *Pseudoeurycea nigromaculata* belongs to the *P. leprosa* group, and it is closer to *P. leprosa* than to any other member of the *leprosa* group, but even this relationship is relatively remote (Maxson and Wake 1981).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific name *nigromaculata* derives from the Latin *maculatus*, spotted, and *nigro*, black.

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